E

Department of State TELEGRAM

EXCISE

29

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AN: 0780102-0900

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12
/094 W
------------------004584 071445Z /50
R 071256Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4808

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1652

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS ELAB, SHUM, AR (SMITH, OSCAR)
SUBJECT LABOR MINISTER REPLIES TO AFL-CIO TELEGRAM

1. LABOR MINISTER LIENDO HAS SHOWN LABATT LETTER HE PLANS TO SEND TO AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY RESPONDING TO MR MEANYS RECENT TELEGRAM REGARDING THE ABDUCTION AND DISAPPEARANCE OF BUENOS AIRES LIGHT AND POWER WORKER LEADER OSCAR SMITH A YEAR AGO. LIENDO CALLED THE AFL-CIO CABLE "CORRECT" IN FORM AND SAID IT DESERVED A REPLY BECAUSE OF ITS SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT. THE MINISTERS LETTER WILL BE TRANSMITTED VIA ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. THE THRUST OF LIENDOS REPLY IS THAT THE KIDNAPPING IS AN ABOMINABLE ACT WHICH HAS CAUSED DISTRESS TO THE GOA AND THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE AND BRING THE PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE. •

2. LIENDO ALSO STATED THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA AND HE HAD EACH SENT PERSONAL TIME LETTERS TO MRS SMITH, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NOT USEFUL OR ENLIGHTENING INFORMATION
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AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO REVEAL AS TO HER HUSBANDS WHERE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Rsehle DATE 1/20/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

DECLASSIFIED
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ABOUTS OR FATE.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ALERT AFL-CIO THAT LIENDO LETTER IS ON ITS WAY.

4. LIENDO TOLD LABATT PRIVATELY HE FEARED THAT SMITH WAS DEAD (SINCE NOTHING MORE HAS BEEN HEARD ABOUT HIM ALL THIS TIME).

B1, ED

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